WTO Cell in States

510. SHRI P. K. MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that Karnataka Government has set up a WTO Cell to find a solution to farmers' problems following the unprecedented fall in the prices of agricultural commodities due to the announcements made by Government for the second phase of liberalization policy;

(b) if so, whether Government have asked the other State Governments to set up such cell in their respective States;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the remedial steps taken by Government to safeguard the interest of the farmers in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDI): (a) The Government of Karnataka have set up a cell on WTO related issues with the objective of analysing the provisions of the WTO Agreement and its implication on the horticulture and agriculture sector in Karnataka and accordingly to suggest measures for taking advantage of the WTO regime for the benefit of agriculture and horticulture in Karnataka.

(b) and (c) The Government of India have also advised all State Governments/Union Territories to set up WTO cells and appoint nodal officers for coordinating with the Government of India on WTO related issues.

(d) To safeguard the interest of farmers in the country, the Government have put in place a suitable mechanism for monitoring of imports of sensitive items and are committed to providing adequate protection to domestic producers by resorting to various WTO compatible measures which include appropriate calibration of applied tariffs within bound tariffs, imposition of antidumping, countervailing duties and safeguard action under certain specified circumstances.

Decline in Exports

511. SHRI P.K. MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the details of sectors in which India's share in exports declined in terms of dollars and rupee terms during the year 2001-2002 in comparison to the last three years year-wise and country-wise;